

In re: Daniel P. Cedrone
Serial No. 09/780,306
Filed: February 9, 2001
Page 2

Amendments to the Claims

K)

1. (Currently Amended) A low friction gravity hinge consisting essentially of:
an upper cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface, said second terminating surface being oblique to the axis of said upper knuckle across its entire surface;
a lower cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface
wherein said first terminating surface of said lower cylindrical knuckle being is oblique to the axis of said lower knuckle and is at the same angle across its entire oblique surface as said second surface of said upper knuckle;
an oblique polymeric bushing separating between said upper and lower knuckles, said bushing having substantially the same oblique angle as said second terminating surface of said upper knuckle and said first terminating surface of said lower knuckle;
and
a spindle received by at least one of said knuckles and said bushing, wherein said spindle establishes for establishing rotating communication between said upper and lower knuckles and for allowing allows said upper knuckle to be separated from said bushing;
wherein said polymeric bushing has having a lower coefficient of friction with respect to said respective oblique surfaces of said upper and lower knuckles than said respective surfaces have for each other and wherein said bushing and said knuckles form a continuous cylinder when said knuckles are in a resting position; and
a cylindrical polymeric sleeve within said upper knuckle between said knuckle and said spindle for reducing rotational friction therebetween.

2. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein said upper cylindrical knuckle is tubular and said spindle extends from said first terminating surface of said lower cylindrical knuckle and is received in said upper tubular knuckle.

In re: Daniel P. Cedrone
Serial No. 09/780,306
Filed: February 9, 2001
Page 3

3. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 2 wherein said spindle is integral to said lower cylindrical knuckle.

4. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 2 wherein said lower cylindrical knuckle has a recess for receiving said spindle.

5. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein said lower cylindrical knuckle is tubular and said spindle extends from said second terminating surface of said upper knuckle and is received in said lower tubular knuckle.

6. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 5 wherein said spindle is integral to said upper cylindrical knuckle.

7. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 5 wherein said upper knuckle is tubular and said spindle traverses the length of said upper knuckle and is received in said lower tubular knuckle.

8-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein said bushing has at least one cylindrical sleeve that surrounds said spindle.

11. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 10 in which at least one of said cylindrical knuckles possesses an opening sufficient to receive both said spindle and said sleeve.

12. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said knuckles is metallic.

In re: Daniel P. Cedrone
Serial No. 09/780,306
Filed: February 9, 2001
Page 4



13. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said knuckles is ceramic.

14. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said knuckles is formed of a polymer.

15. (Original) A gravity hinge according to claim 1 further comprising a mounting flange attached to at least one of said knuckles.

16. (Original) A gravity gate comprising the gravity hinge according to claim 1.

17 - 28 (Cancelled)

29. (Amended) A gravity hinge according to claim 1-17 wherein at least one of said knuckles is metallic.

30. (Amended) A gravity hinge according to claim 1-17 wherein at least one of said knuckles is ceramic.

31. (Amended) A gravity hinge according to claim 1-17 wherein at least one of said knuckles is formed of a polymer.

32. (Amended) A gravity hinge according to claim 1-17 further comprising a mounting flange attached to at least one of said knuckles.

33. (Currently Amended) A gravity gate consisting essentially of:
a static structure;

In re: Daniel P. Cedrone

Serial No. 09/780,306

Filed: February 9, 2001

Page 5

K | a lower cylindrical knuckle attached to said static structure, said lower knuckle having a first terminating surface oblique to the axis of said lower knuckle across its entire surface and an opposing second terminating surface;

an upper cylindrical knuckle having a first terminating surface and an opposing second terminating surface, said second terminating surface being oblique to the axis of said upper knuckle across its entire surface;

a spindle for rotatably engaging said upper knuckle with said lower knuckle such that said oblique terminating surfaces of each knuckle are proximate to each other;

an oblique polymer-a bushing surrounding said spindle and separating said upper and lower knuckles, said bushing having a lower coefficient of friction with respect to said respective oblique surfaces of said upper and lower knuckles than said respective surfaces have for each other, wherein said bushing and said knuckles form a continuous cylinder when said knuckles are in a resting position; and

a frame member attached to said upper knuckle; and

a cylindrical polymeric sleeve within said upper knuckle between said knuckle and said spindle for reducing rotational friction therebetween.

34. (Original) A gravity gate according to claim 33 wherein said static structure is a post.

35. (Original) A gravity gate according to claim 34 wherein said static structure is a wall.

36. (Original) A fence comprising the gravity gate of claim 34.

37-39 (Cancelled)